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The Mediterranean Sepiolidae (Mollusca: Cephalopoda) diversity

Giambattista BELLO¹

The Sepiolidae is the most diverse cephalopod family in the Mediterranean Sea, where 17 species have been identified. They are distributed into three subfamilies: Sepiolinae (13 species), Rossinae (2) and Heteroteuthinae (2). In this review, the updated list of the Mediterranean sepiolids is given along with the species type locality, the first documented occurrence in this basin and the present geographical distribution.

Sepiolo atlantica and *Heteroteuthis atlantis* are excluded from the above mentioned list. Although both were previously reported from the Mediterranean, their presence is erroneous. Moreover, patently erroneous information about both the bathymetric and geographical distributions of *Sepiolo rondeletii* is revised. The extreme rarity of *Sepiolo aurantiaca* and the comparatively recent entrance into the Mediterranean and establishment of *Stoloteuthis leucoptera* are discussed. The genesis of the Mediterranean sepiolid-fauna is dealt with and, in particular, the reasons that determined its comparatively wide diversity are examined. They are to be traced back to both the mode of life and the reproductive biology of these cephalopods. In connection with the latter topic, the high degree of endemism in the Subfamily Sepiolinae is taken into consideration. Finally, the phylogenetic relationships among the Mediterranean members of the Sepiolidae are explored as well as the lineage connections between them and the North-eastern Atlantic sepiolids.

¹ Arion, Via Colombo 34, 70042 Mola di Bari, Italy